

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 EUR-12 COME-00
ISO-00 TRSE-00 AF-10 L-03 H-01 INR-07 DLOS-09
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 147

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1525

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PINR, SF
SUBJECT: COMMUNIST FISHING ACTIVITIES OFF SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. WHILE SEEKING ANNUAL FISH CATCH STATISTICS FROM GERTENBACH,
FAO FISH STATISTICIAN FOR 31 YEARS WHO IS FROM SOUTH AFRICA,
GERTENBACH MADE A NUMBER OF COMMENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTELLIGENCE
INTEREST.

2. IN OBTAINING FISHERY STATISTICS FROM AFRICA, GERTENBACH WAS
TOLD THAT CUBANS HAVE BEEN STRIPPING HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT FROM
PORTUGUESE-EQUIPPED HOSPITALS IN ANGOLA AND SHIPPING IT BACK TO
CUBA.

3. CUBANS HAVE NOT ASSISTED ANGOLAN FISHING FLEET AND IN FACT
SEEM TO BE INTENT ON INCREASING THEIR CATCH IN ANGOLAN WATERS
USING THEIR LARGE RUSSIAN-BUILT TRAWLERS WHICH ARE NOW WHITE
ELEPHANTS. THEY ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR CARIBBEAN TRAWLING
AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC IS BEING SHUT TO THEM BY THE 200-MILE
FISHING ZONES.

4. FINALLY, OFF THE WESTERN COAST OF AFRICA, ESPECIALLY
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NAMIBIA, THE POLES ARE WINNING SOME FRIENDS THROUGH THEIR
ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL NATIONAL FISHERIES WHILE THE RUSSIANS
ARE SOLELY OUT FOR THEIR OWN CATCH.

5. COMMENT: GERTENBACH'S REMARKS IN PARA 3 CONTRAST SOMEWHAT
WITH OBSERVATIONS BY ADG WATZINGER TO US IN
SEPARATE CONVERSATION IN WHICH HE NOTED CONSIDERABLE FAO

ASSISTANCE TO CUBAN PROGRESS AND CUBAN USE OF THEIR SKILLS
IN ASSISTANCE IN FISHERIES AREA TO ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND
OTHER AFRICAN STATES. GARDNER

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